

Government of the District of Columbia  
Office of the Chief Financial Officer



Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia

**FROM:** Jeffrey S. DeWitt  
Chief Financial Officer

**DATE:** November 7, 2016

**SUBJECT:** Fiscal Impact Statement – Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016

**REFERENCE:** Bill 21-833, Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 3, 2016

---

**Conclusion**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill.

**Background**

The bill prohibits the sale of nonwoven wipes that are labeled or advertised as flushable or sewer safe products unless they disperse in a short period of time, are not buoyant, and do not contain plastic, cellulose, or other materials that do not readily degrade in the natural environment. The ban, which goes into effect on January 1, 2018, also requires the packaging of non-flushable products for sale in the District to communicate that the product should not be flushed. The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) can issue regulations and enforce violations of the prohibition. The Attorney General can also seek injunctive relief to enforce the compliance with the ban.

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is currently partnering with its member jurisdictions and regional water supply and wastewater treatment teams to educate residents on the problems that flushable wipes can cause for toilets, pipes, and wastewater treatment efforts.<sup>1</sup>

**Financial Plan Impact**

Funds are sufficient in the fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2020 budget and financial plan to implement the bill. DOEE and the Attorney General can absorb the costs associated with

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.protectyourpipes.org/toilet/>

The Honorable Phil Mendelson

FIS: Bill 21-833, "Nonwoven Disposable Products Act of 2016," Draft Committee Print as shared with the Office of Revenue Analysis on November 3, 2016

implementing and enforcing the ban on the advertising or labeling of non-sewer safe products as safe to flush in the District within existing resources.